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Author
Guinivan, Eric

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Written for the 2014 American Liszt Society Festival

PRELUDE: HYMN AND SNOWFALL

for Piano

Eric Guinivan

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Program Note

Written for a premiere at the 2014 American Liszt Society Festival, I composed Prelude: Hymn and Snowfall this past winter while contemplating one of Liszt's most haunting works, *Nuages gris* ("*Grey Clouds*"). Written in 1881, this piece stands out among Liszt's solo piano works as a notable departure from his earlier virtuosic style and is representative of his most harmonically adventurous work. Functioning just past the edge of tonality, *Nuages gris* gains much of its character from a marked prominence of the augmented triad, which drifts chromatically over the course of much of the work without ever approaching any sense of traditional harmonic resolution.

Reflecting on the harmonic language and free-flowing character of *Nuages gris* proved to be quite influential in the composing of *Prelude: Hymn and Snowfall*, of which the augmented triad is also a foundational harmony. Many of the sonorities in the piece are built from "tall" augmented chords that stack at the major-seventh rather than the octave, and these chords weave their way through the tapestry of the piece with a similarly chromatic and freely flowing nature.

Composed in part against the background of a gentle late-December snowfall in Harrisonburg, Virginia, *Prelude: Hymn and Snowfall* also draws from an atmospheric inspiration as does Liszt's *Nuages gris*. The piece is presented in ternary form: a solemn and reflective hymn tune is followed by a contrasting section evocative of snowfall, leading to a combination of both hymn and snowfall as the hymn tune returns, now set against the gentle, white background.

Please notify the composer of all performances of this work.
Eric can be reached at eric.guinivan@gmail.com or via www.ericguinivan.com.

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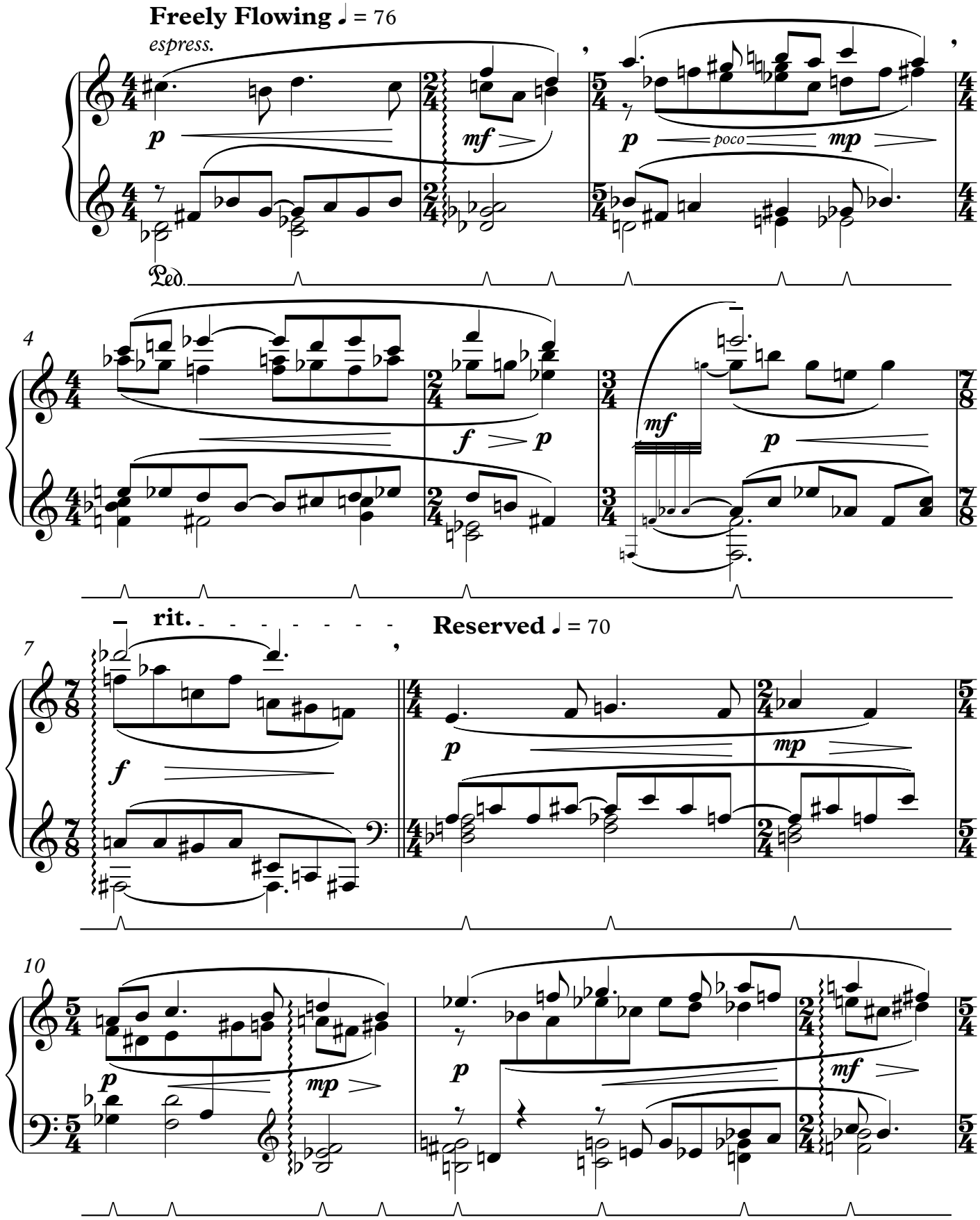
Written for the 2014 American Liszt Society Festival

PRELUDE: HYMN AND SNOWFALL

(2014)

Eric Guinivan



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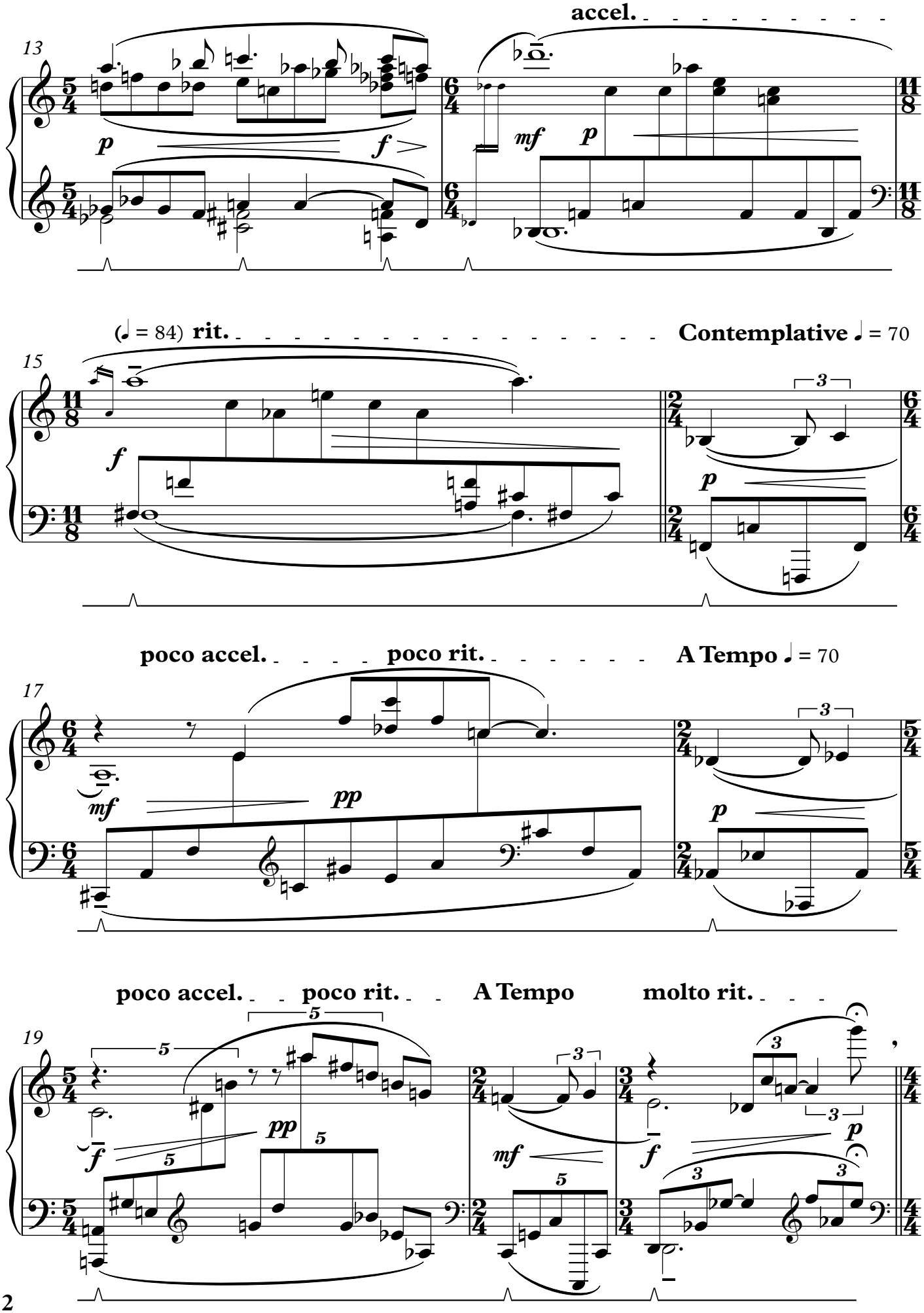
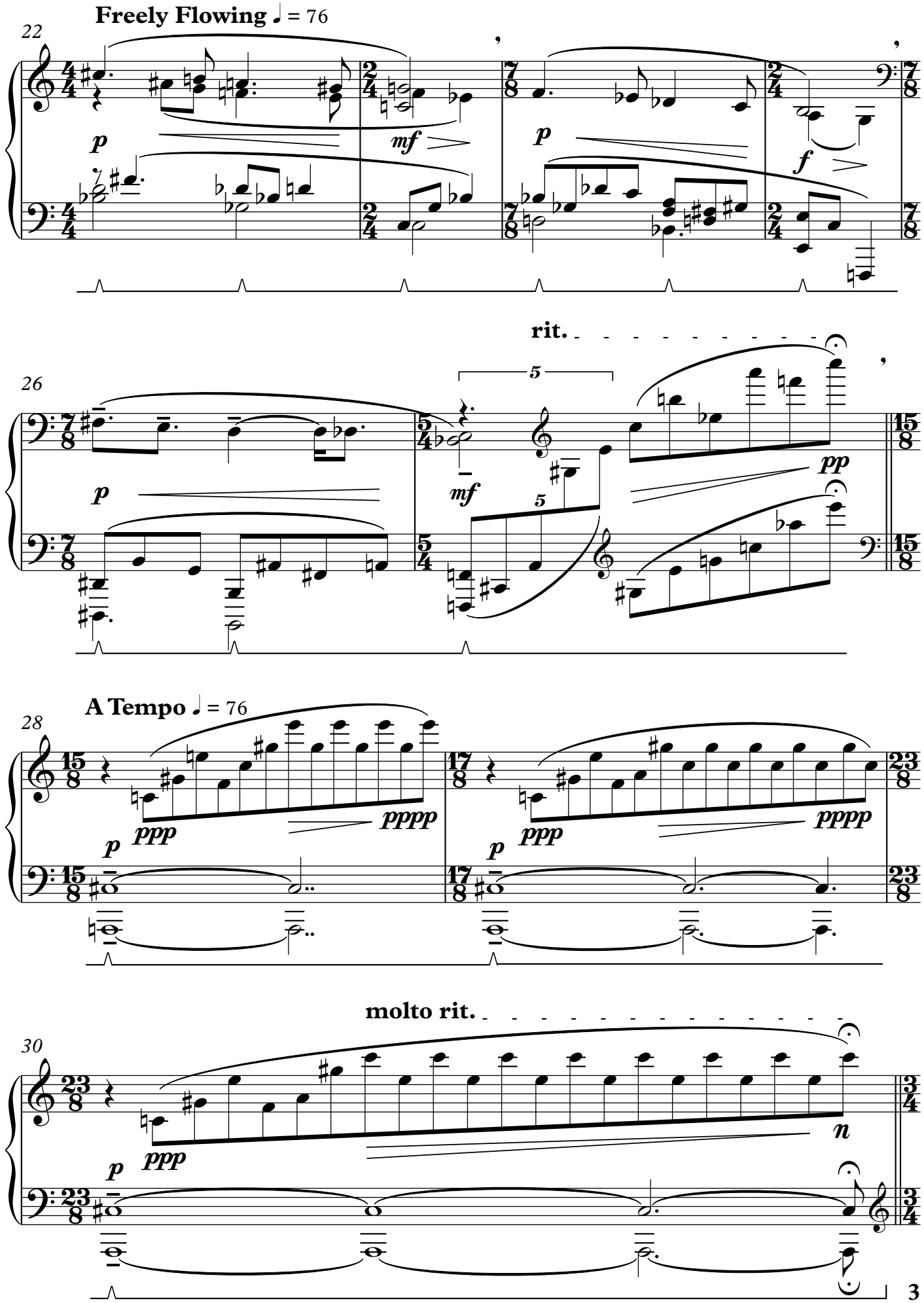
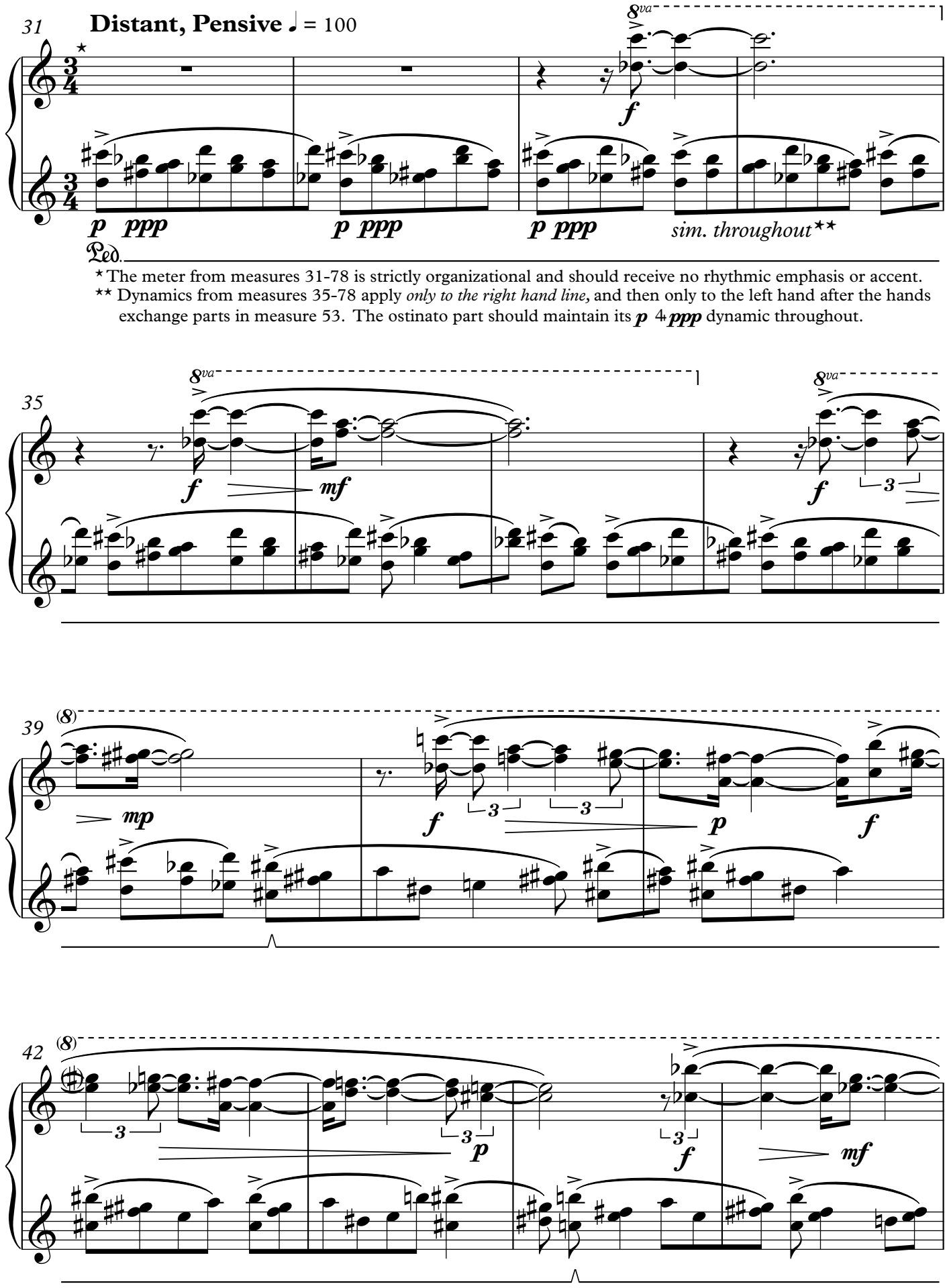
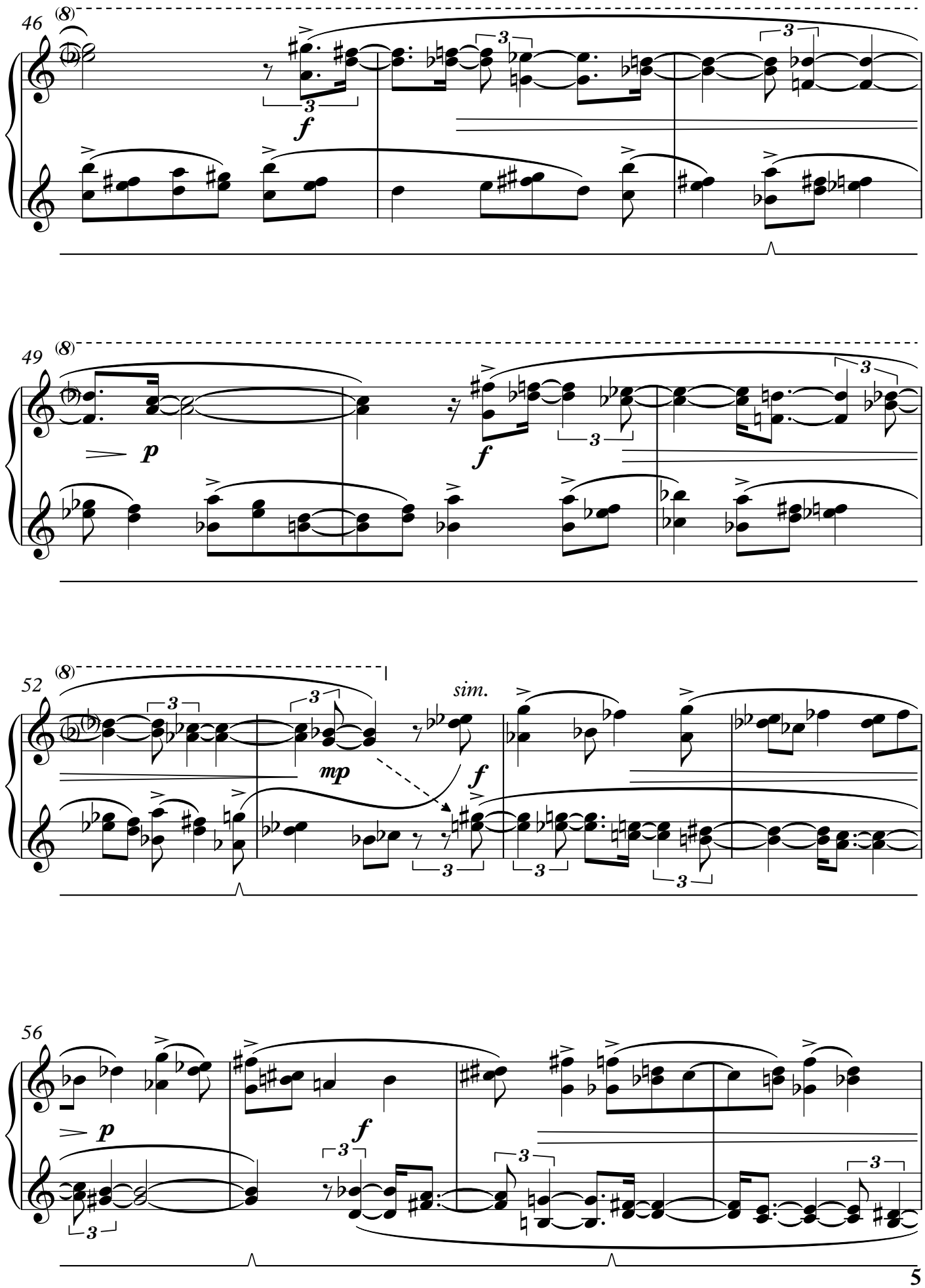

accel.
13
p
f
mf
p
(♩ = 84) rit.
Contemplative ♩ = 70
15
f
p
poco accel.
poco rit.
A Tempo ♩ = 70
17
mf
pp
p
poco accel.
poco rit.
A Tempo
molto rit.
19
f
pp
mf
f
p

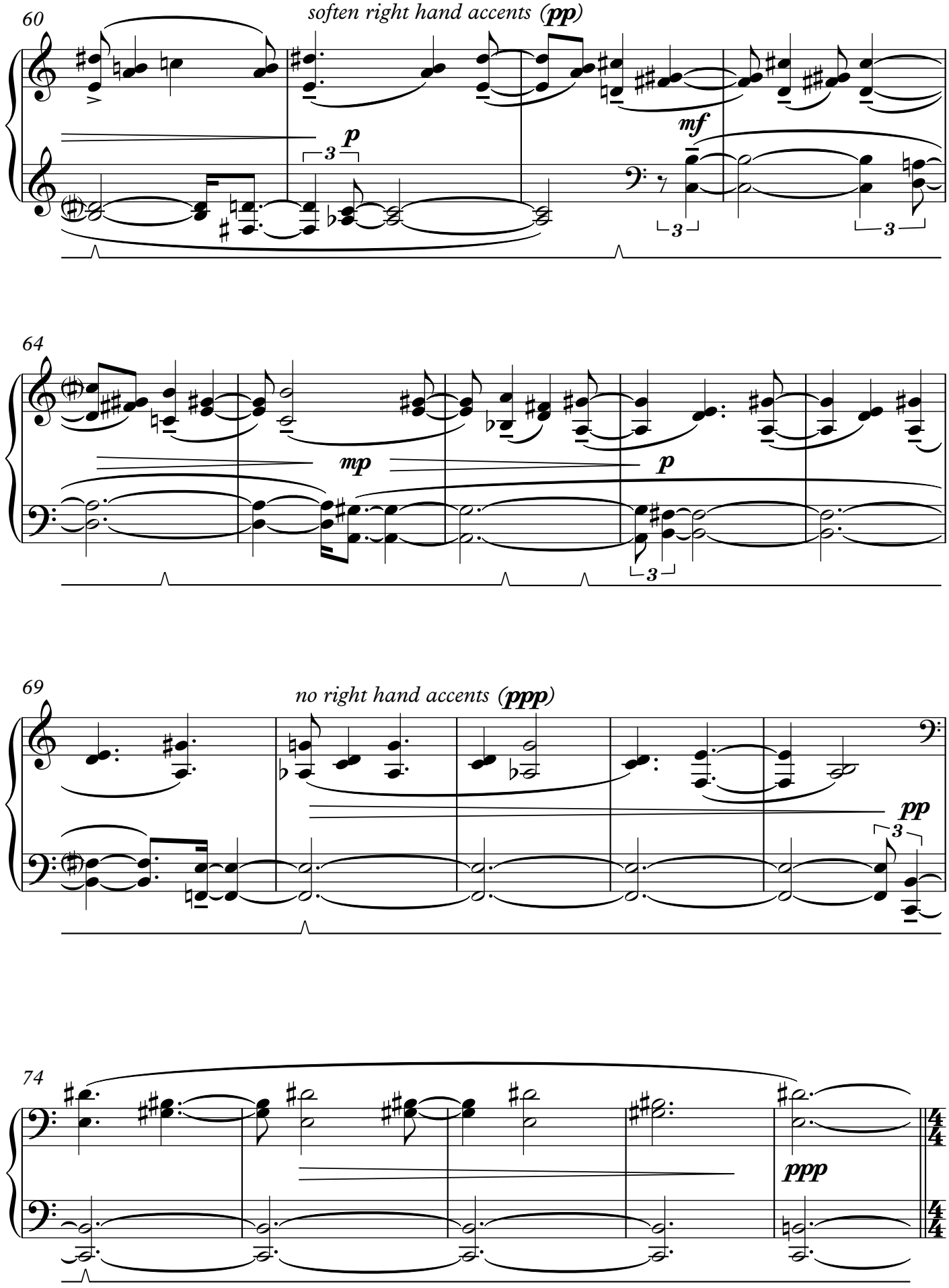

Freely Flowing ♩ = 76
22
p
mf
p
f
rit.
26
p
mf
5
5
pp
A Tempo ♩ = 76
28
ppp
pppp
p
ppp
pppp
p
molto rit.
30
ppp
p
n

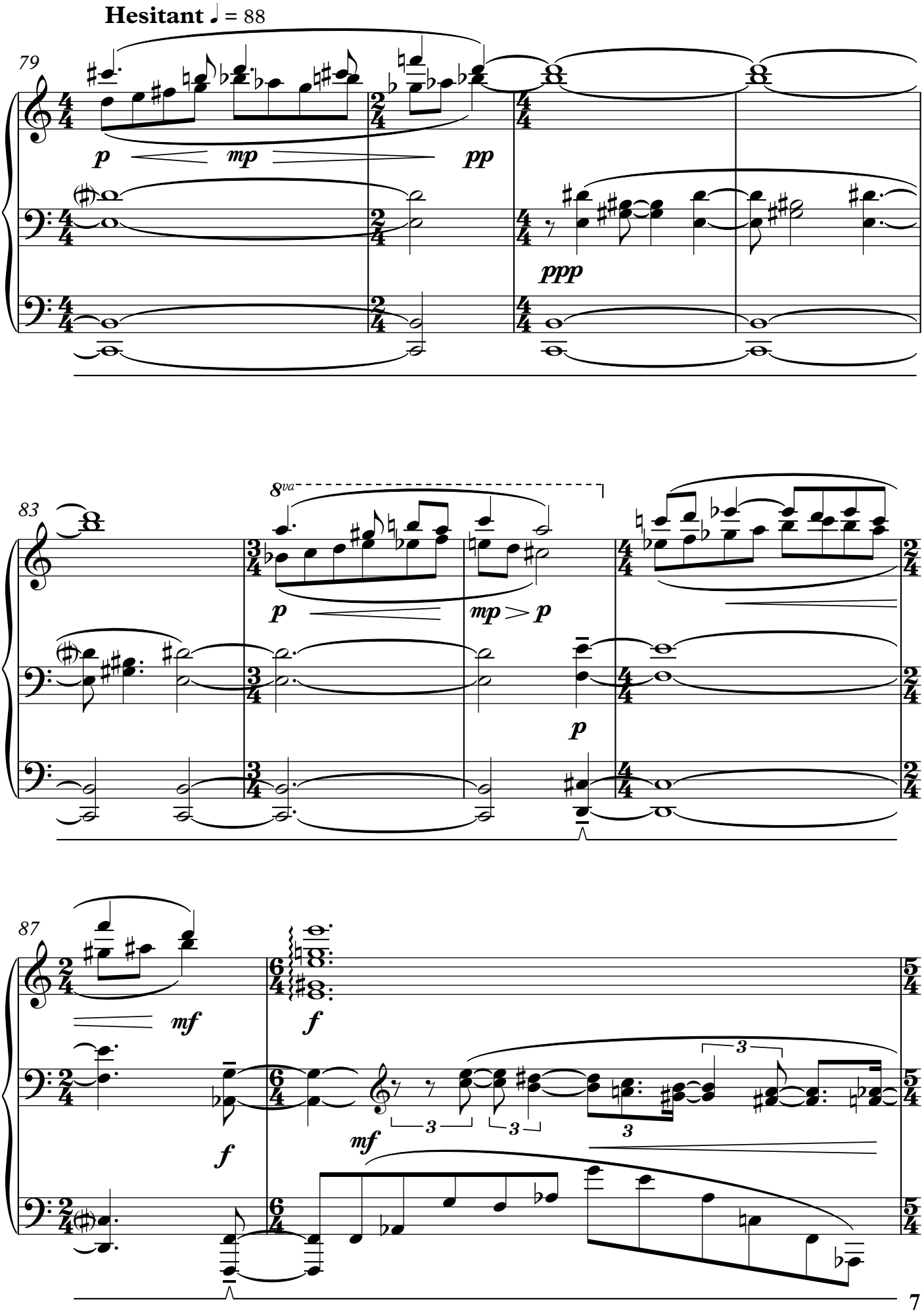


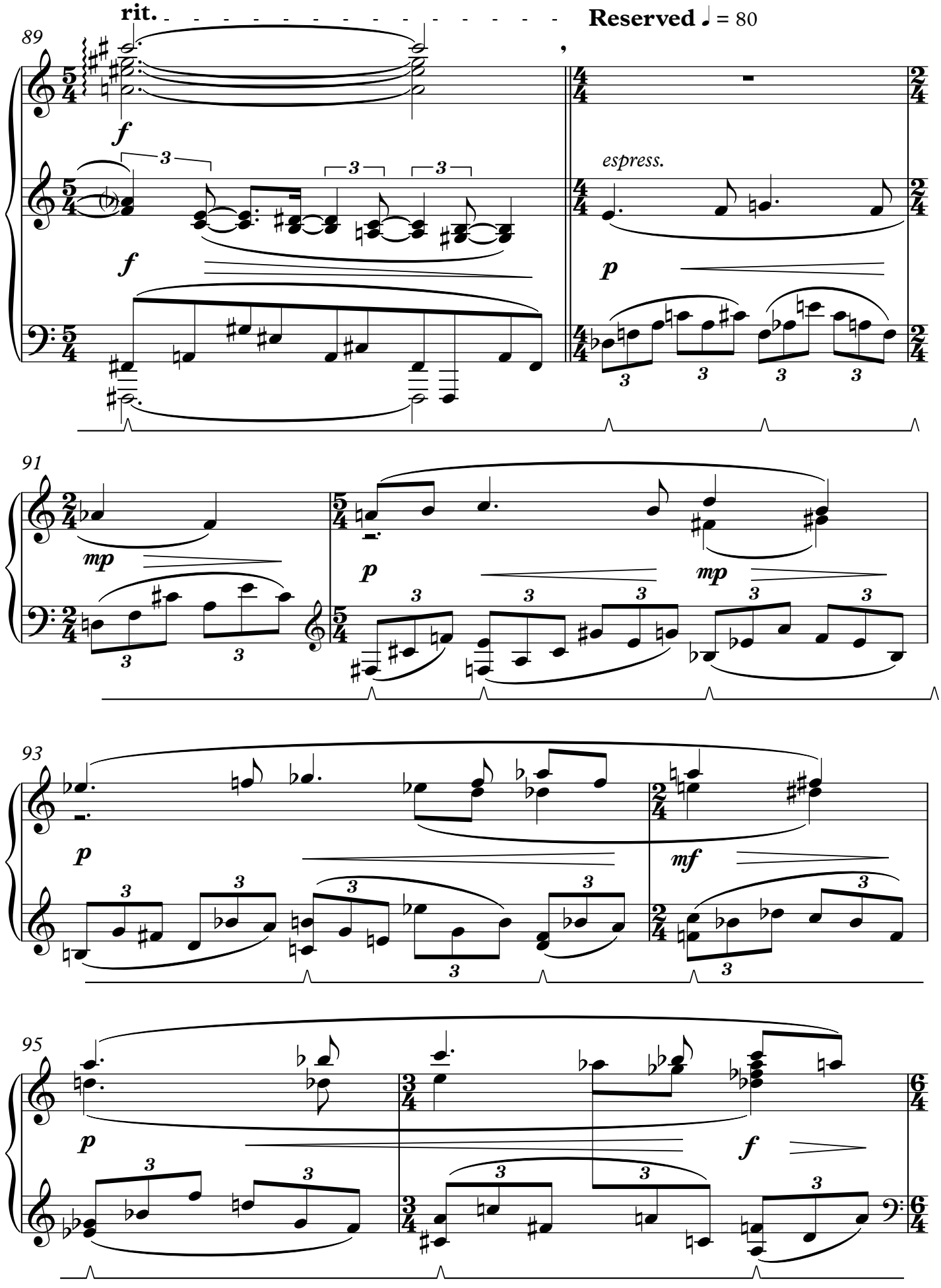
*The meter from measures 31-78 is strictly organizational and should receive no rhythmic emphasis or accent.

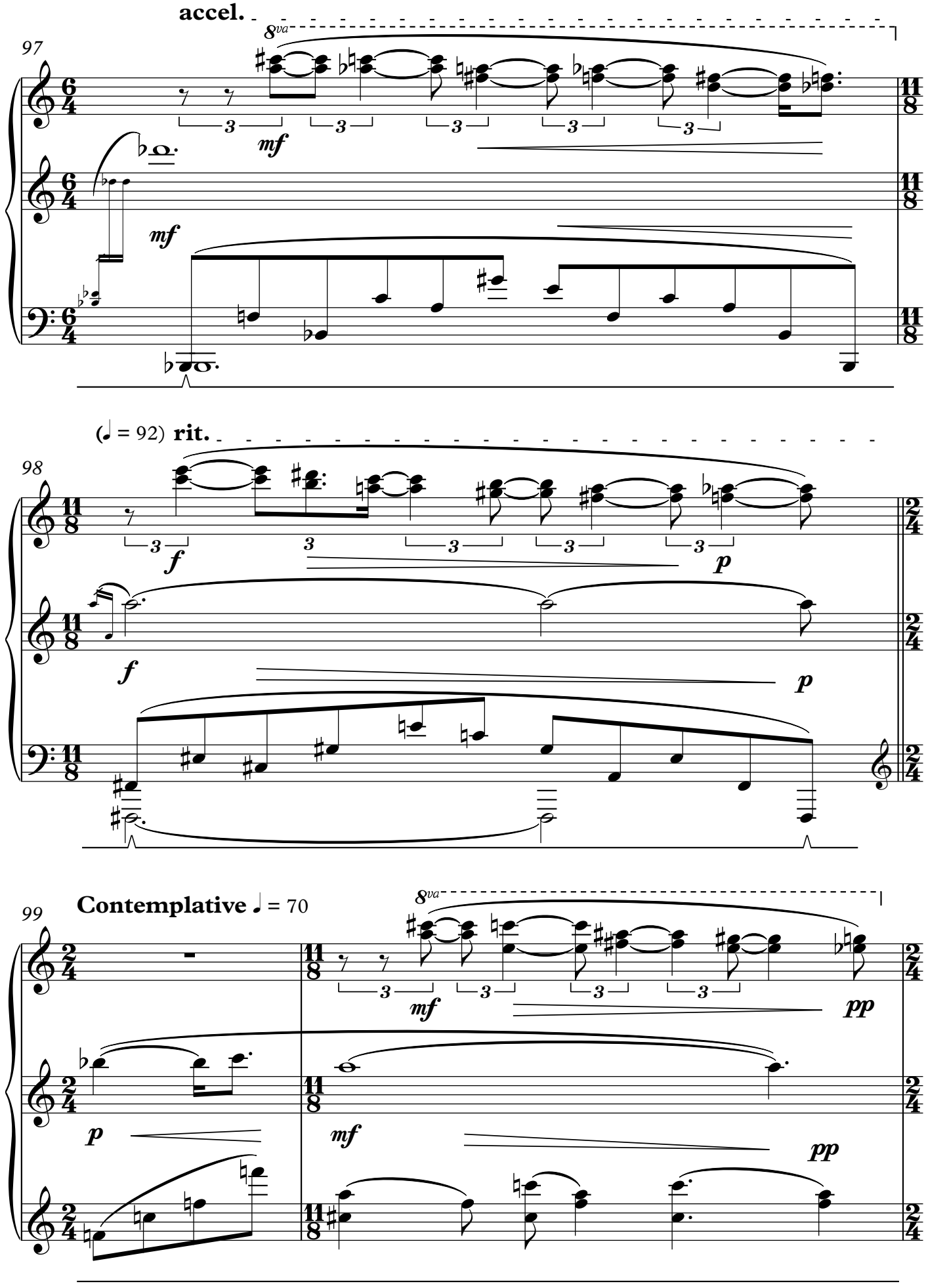
** Dynamics from measures 35-78 apply *only to the right hand line*, and then only to the left hand after the hands exchange parts in measure 53. The ostinato part should maintain its ***p*** 4 ***ppp*** dynamic throughout.

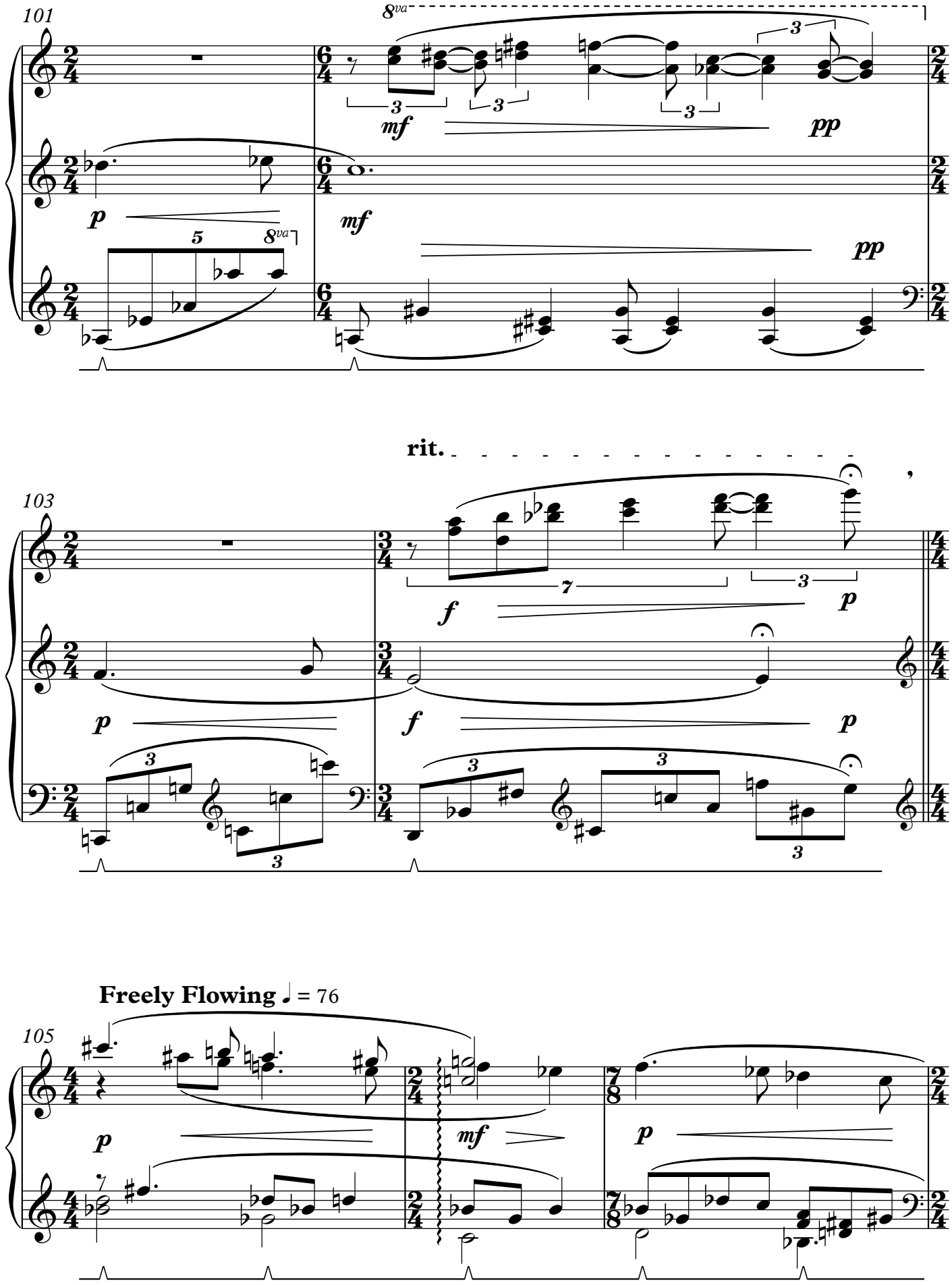

46
(8)
f
49
(8)
p
f
52
(8)
mp
f
sim.
56
p
f

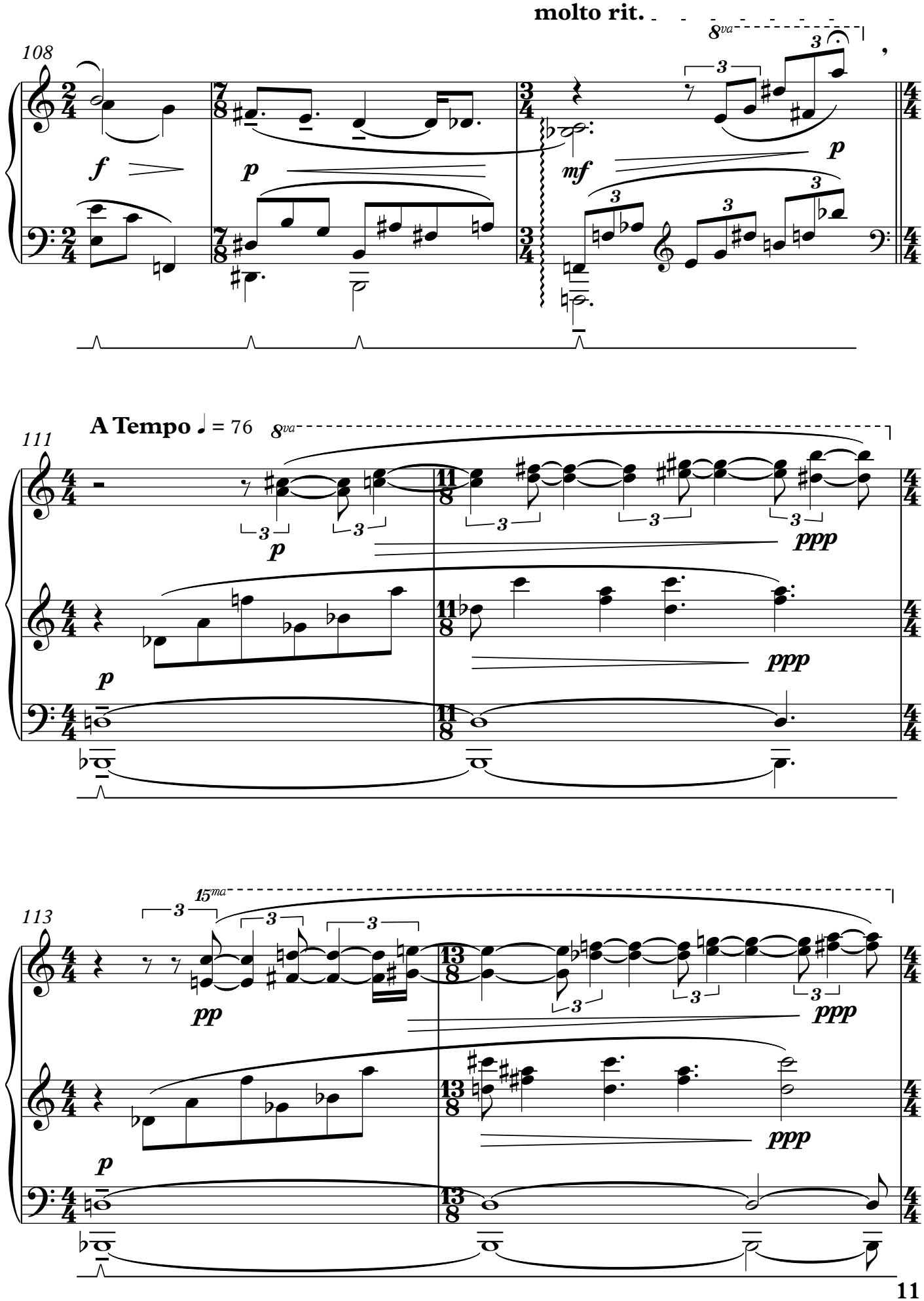

60
soften right hand accents (pp)
p
mf
64
mp
p
69
no right hand accents (ppp)
pp
74
ppp

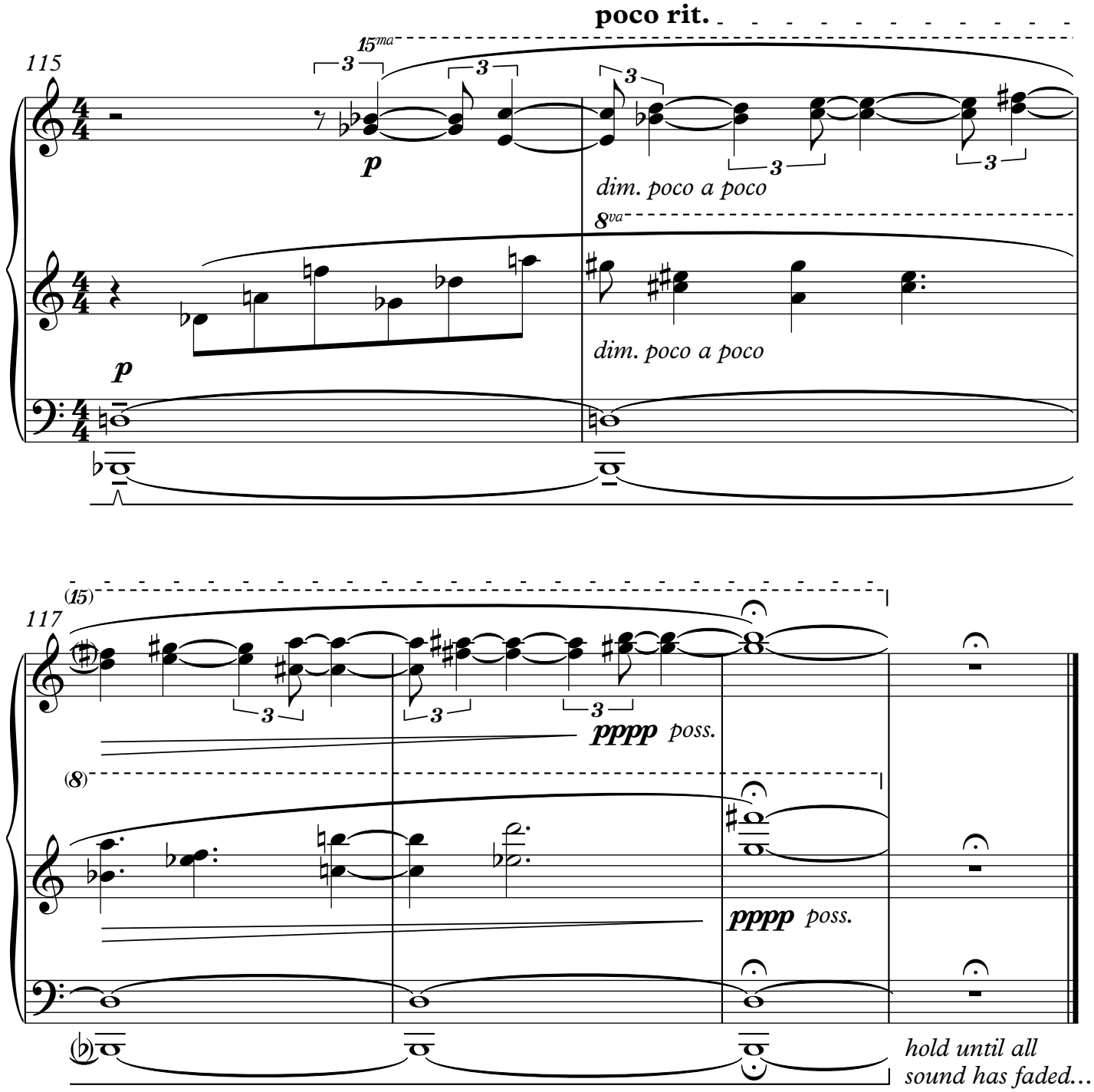

Hesitant ♩ = 88
79
p
mp
pp
ppp
83
8va
p
mp > p
p
87
mf
f
f
mf
3
3
3
3


rit.
Reserved ♩ = 80
89
f
espress.
p
91
mp
p
mp
93
p
mf
95
p
f


accel.
97
8va
mf
mf
(♩ = 92) rit.
98
f
f
p
p
99
Contemplative ♩ = 70
8va
mf
pp
p
mf
pp


101
8va
mf
pp
p
mf
pp
5
8va
rit.
103
f
p
p
f
p
Freely Flowing ♩ = 76
105
p
mf
p


molto rit.
8va
108
f
p
mf
p
A Tempo ♩ = 76
8va
111
p
ppp
p
ppp
15ma
113
pp
ppp
p
ppp


poco rit.
115
15ma
p
dim. poco a poco
8va
p
dim. poco a poco
117
(15)
pppp poss.
(8)
pppp poss.
hold until all
sound has faded…

Works by Eric Guinivan

Visit www.ericguinivan.com for more information about these works.

Orchestra and Wind Ensemble

Shadow Dances (2015)	Orchestra
Vicious Cycle (2014)	Wind Ensemble
Fractured Light (2012)	Wind Ensemble
Meditation and Awakening (2010)	Percussion and Orchestra
Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra (2007)	Percussion and Orchestra
A Shade of Gray (2006)	Flute and Chamber Orchestra

Large Chamber Ensemble

Pocket Concerto (2013)	Sinfonietta
Avalerion (2011)	Mixed Octet
Mie: Caprice for Eight Musicians (2009)	Mixed Octet
Continuum (2007)	Reduced Sinfonietta

Chamber Ensemble

Autumn Dusk (2015)	String Quartet
String Quartet No. 1 (2014)	String Quartet
Incantations (2014)	Trombone Quartet
Push (2013)	Tuba and Piano
Autumn Dances (2010)	Flute and Percussion
Winter Meditations (2010)	Two Clarinets and Cello
Ritual Dances (2009)	Percussion Quartet
Aspen Winds (2009)	Clarinet, Violin, and Piano
Twelve (2006)	Two Percussion
Dream Suspended (2005)	Five Vibraphones and Wine Glasses

Solo

Prelude: Hymn and Snowfall (2014)	Piano
Bharata's Music Box (2011)	Piano
Episodes (2007)	Timpani
Distance (2006)	Timpani and Electronic Playback
Ambiences (2006)	Cello
Silver Horizon (2004)	Piano

Vocal

Explaining the Sea to my Daughter (2010)	High Voice and Piano
Two Love Songs (2007)	SATB Chorus
Cradle Song (2005)	High Voice and Piano
Like a Diamond (2004)	SSAATTBB Chorus, Harp, Piano, 3 Percussion

Published by Eric Guinivan
www.ericguinivan.com
eric.guinivan@gmail.com